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AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR MEDICAL
DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT THAT PROMOTES ACCESSIBILITY IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Dear Committee Member;

My name is Carol Kirkwood and I am testifying in Support of HB 5277, An Act Concerning the Establishment Of Technical Standards For Medical Diagnostic Equipment That Promotes Accessibility In Health Care Facilities.

I have been the Village Manager at New Horizons Village located in Unionville, CT for over 10 years. New Horizons Village is an accessible apartment community that provides independent housing opportunities for those with physical disabilities.

Over the years I have witnessed situations where tenants of New Horizons Village are unable to get equality in basic health care needs being met, because there is no accessible diagnostic medical equipment available to them and/or the equipment does not allow for independent use. The sad thing it is not because the equipment does not exist ... it does exist, but it is not readily available and there are no standards in place for accessible medical diagnostic equipment that promotes accessibility in health care facilities.

No one should have challenges to be independent, or be denied equality in regards to accessibility for medical diagnostic equipment so they can promote their own wellness.

Here is a situation I have heard numerous accounts of:

A person who uses a wheelchair is unable to know what they weigh because there are no wheelchair scales available to them where they can independently roll onto the scale see their weight on a digital screen and roll off. Instead they get questions such as why do you need to know what you weigh? A few have mentioned that people have offered to hold them up on an inaccessible scale. What an insult to humanity and independence! We can do better! We have to do better! In this day and age there is accessible diagnostic medical equipment and they should be easily found in health care facilities with standards in place.

Anyone at any time can find themselves needing accessible diagnostic medical equipment. They should not be expected to give up their dignity of independence,

denied being diagnosed properly due to equipment not being available and/or inaccessible.

The time is NOW! Connecticut needs to put in place technical standards for medical diagnostic equipment that promotes accessibility in health care facilities. People with accessibility needs should have the equality to be independent in their health care needs, have medical diagnostic equipment available while allowing independent use of such equipment to the maximum extent possible.

Please give your support to HB-5277.

Thank-you

Carol A. Kirkwood